

THE LEVITE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE JOHN WATSON CLUB

SPRING NUMBER 1948

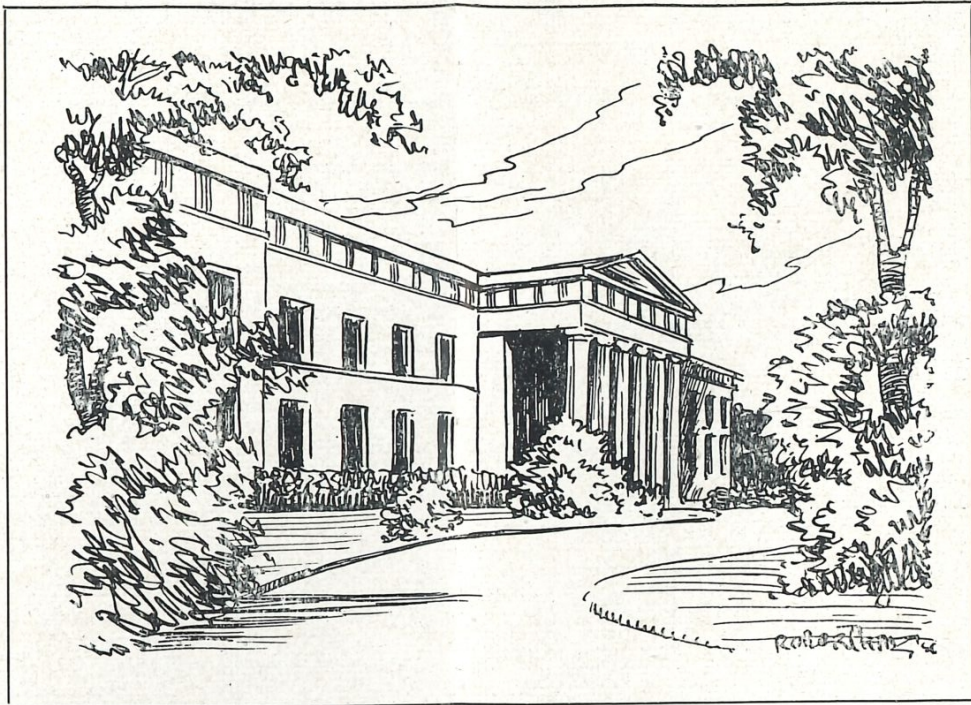
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VOL. 7

No. 4



WHEN Time, who steals our years away
Shall steal our pleasures too,
The memory of the past will stay
And half our joys renew.

THOS. MOORE.

The Levite

VOLUME VII.
NUMBER 4

The Levite

EDITOR—A. DOUGLAS MURRAY.

SPRING NUMBER 1948

VOL. VII. No. 4

THE JOHN WATSON CLUB.

(*Old Boys' Club, formed April, 1899. Girls' Association in October, 1903.*)

Reconstituted, 26th June, 1937.

OFFICE-BEARERS, 1948.

Hon. President—Sir E. M. WEDDERBURN, D.K.S., D.Sc.

Hon. Vice-President—Miss W. L. GELLATLY.

President—D. M. THOMSON.

Vice-Presidents—

Miss JEAN D. BRUCE, M.B.E.

G. D. S. FORSYTH, M.A.

Secretary—A. F. BOOTH, 5 Rintoul Place, Edinburgh 4.

Treasurer—J. D. W. SPENCE, C.A., B.Com.
30 St. John's Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh 12.

Deputies to Secretary and Treasurer—

Miss J. RHIND, M.A., 4 Leslie Place, Edinburgh.

H. L. MORRISON, 21 Pitt Street, Edinburgh.

Editor of Levite—A. D. MURRAY, "Stranraer," Elm Avenue, Lenzie, Dumbartonshire.

Members of Council—

Dr W. A. ALEXANDER, S. ROSS, I. G. MINTO, W. G. SCOTT, Miss D. DRYSDALE,
Miss N. THOMAS and Mrs R. AITKEN.

Director nominated by the Club—

Professor W. B. STEVENSON, D.Litt., D.D.

Club Auditor—W. R. MENZIES.

Consultative Committee—Representing the Former Pupils—D. M. THOMSON,
Professor STEVENSON and Miss W. L. GELLATLY.

F.P. Founders' Fund—Trustees—The Deputy Keeper, the Club President, and
the Headmaster.

F.P. Centenary Recreation Fund—Trustees—The Club President, two Vice-Presidents
the Secretary, the Headmaster, the Housemistress, and the School Treasurer.

THE ANNUAL REUNION—10th APRIL, 1948.

Those of us who attended, in the early days of 1939, the last Reunion to be held in the School, little dreamed that it would be nine years before the next would be held within these self-same walls. This is just another way of saying that the next Reunion, which is to be held on Saturday, 10th April, is an event of real importance in the Club's life.

There is nothing like the thrill of meeting old friends and in addition we have the attraction of seeing the Old School once again—a little changed maybe—but still the same old place bringing back the same old memories of happy days spent there.

Which one of you can resist the urge to walk up the drive and pass once again into John Watson's—the real John Watson's. Few, we think, and for this reason we urge all Levites within reasonable reach to reserve the 10th of April in their diaries. We know travel and accommodation provide difficulties these days, but we feel sure that, "where there's a will, there's a way," these difficulties can and will be overcome.

As a first step in that direction we suggest that every "Levite in Edinburgh writes to one of his or her old schoolmates who resides out of town and offers sleeping accommodation for one or two nights—Yes, that old camp bed or couch would do!! *Do it now and make April the Tenth a day to be long remembered.*

The Secretary will be most willing to supply any addresses which may be required.

THE NEW CLUB SECRETARY.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Club, on 17th January, 1948, Mr Andrew C. Ogilvie intimated that, on account of business reasons, he did not desire to seek re-election as the Club Secretary. In his place Mr Alex. Booth was elected and we feel sure he will uphold the confidence which is placed in him.

Sandy Booth left John Watson's in 1934 and for the next three years he continued his education at the Royal High School, Edinburgh, until he took up a post within the drapery trade.

He was called up for service with the Army in July, 1940, and after the initial training quickly made his mark as an Instructor. For four years he was on the Permanent Staff of the Training Centre at Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow, and engaged in the training of new recruits in the rudiments of drill, weapons, etc., and on his demobilisation in 1946 he held the rank of Sergeant,

He is married and has a family of two young children and since leaving the Army has commenced a new career with the Prudential Insurance Coy., in Edinburgh.

We ask all Club Members to give him every encouragement in his duties, which are by no means light and which will increase as the Club resumes its full activities once again.

THE SCHOOL PROSPECTUS.

Readers of *The Levite* will be glad to learn that, after the interval of the war years, a handsomely printed School Prospectus has again been issued. It contains a brief history of the School, four attractive illustrations, names of governors, directors and staff, subjects of instruction, organisation of games, provision for fee-paying pupils, and recent distinctions of former pupils. Honourable mention is made of the support given to the School by the John Watson Club. It may be noted that the school enrolment at the moment is 105, of whom 69 are foundationers and 36 fee-paying pupils. The total number of boys is 68 and of girls 37. There are vacancies for both boys and girls, but additional enrolment of girls would be specially welcome. Former pupils can help the school by describing its many advantages to the mothers of children qualified to be beneficiaries and to the parents of possible fee-paying children. Copies of the Prospectus, to be used for recruiting purposes, can be got from Mr C. F. M. Maclachlan, W.S., 14 Walker Street, Edinburgh.

W. B. STEVENSON.

THE LATE SERGEANT JOHN RANKIN CAMERON.

Even at this late date we have to record with sorrow the death in February, 1941, of John Rankin Cameron, whilst on service in Greece.

Rankin Cameron left John Watson's in 1933 and commenced training for a commercial career at the West of Scotland Commercial College. His studies there gained him a post nine months later with the well-known firm of Heinz Food Products Ltd. He was a keen worker and when war broke out he was under age for the Services but nevertheless he was determined to serve his country, and only six weeks later was to be found serving with the R.A.S.C. in France.

Here he attained the rank of Corporal and on the fall of France and the attending evacuation of the British Forces he was one of the last to leave. His next posting was to Wales where he was promoted Sergeant, and later he went overseas to serve with the Middle-East Command.

During the gallant but ill-fated campaign in Greece in 1941 he was posted missing and one year later his parents received word that he must be presumed to have been killed in action. Since then there has been no further word of him.



In the days of war, as in the days of peace, he was a conscientious worker and he put his boundless energies into the common struggle—the struggle for what he thought was right and just. This was fully recognised by his C.O., who has paid tribute to his powers of leadership and devotion to duty. In Rankin Cameron the Club has lost a staunch supporter and to his mother, who suffered the loss of his father in the 1914-1918 war, we tender our deepest sympathy on her present loss.

DONALD LOUDON, R.A.F.

Levites will learn with regret that Donald Loudon (1937) has been reported missing since November, 1947, after leaving a Cheshire aerodrome on a return flight to Turnhouse Aerodrome, Edinburgh.

Don Loudon had a distinguished stay at John Watson's and in his final year, 1937, he was Dux of the School. He was the complete all-rounder, for in addition to being Dux for normal class subjects, he also won the Handwork and Drawing Prizes and the Sports Championship Cup.

In the Oxford University Local Examinations of that year he passed with Honours, receiving Distinction in Mathematics.

Keenly interested in aeronautics, in a competitive examination he passed very high into the Air Force and went to Halton, Bucks., as an aircraft apprentice.

Here also he soon showed his merit and won the Gold Medal for the best apprentice of his year.

In 1939 he passed into the R.A.F. proper and later was promoted Corporal. In November, 1940, whilst stationed at Manstone, Kent, he was "mentioned in despatches," and in the spring of 1941 he was posted overseas to Taharachi, in the Gold Coast. Now a Sergeant he remained there for the next 16 months before returning to the United Kingdom. Some eight months later he received his second overseas posting and went to South Rhodesia, where he won his "wings." His capabilities impressed his superiors so much that he was retained as an Instructor and later his services were more fully recognised by the award of the Air Force Cross.

The war now over he returned home again and at the end of 1946 was detailed as Instructor to the University Air Squadrons, firstly at Oxford, then at Aberdeen, and lastly at Edinburgh. Latterly he was stationed at Turnhouse and his duties took him by air to airfields all over Britain on routine inspections, and it was in such a return flight that disaster overtook him.

A real enthusiast for the job, he was, in the words of his Commanding Officer, "just the type needed for the R.A.F." Simple words maybe—but indeed high praise.

To his mother and brother John we offer our sincere condolences.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB.

Some forty members gathered in the school on the afternoon of Saturday the 17th of January, for the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Club. For some it was their first visit to the School, but to the majority it was a happy return. After tea, served in what used to be the Boys' Dining Room, the company proceeded upstairs to the Assembly Room (the Chapel) for the more serious business of the day.

Mr D. M. Thomson, who presided, in welcoming those present, gave a special welcome to Mr Rowe who had graciously accepted the Club's invitation to become an Honorary Member of the Club.

After the Treasurer's Annual Statement and the Council's Annual Report had been presented and accorded unanimous approval the Chairman gave the members a report on the Council's appeal for the fitting out of a War Memorial Library within the School. The

sketch plan of the lay-out of the library was of special interest and Mr Thomson intimated that in the space of three weeks since the Fund was launched some £75 had been received in response. He said, however, that good as this was, much remained to be done to reach the figure of £350 required to make the library worthy of the name it will bear.

The Meeting then turned to the election of the office-bearers for the ensuing year and the appointments listed on page 3 were made.

It will be noted that Mr A. C. Ogilvie, who, for business reasons, intimated his resignation from the post of Club Secretary, is succeeded by Mr A. Booth. The Chairman thanked Mr Ogilvie for his services to the Club and asked the members to give Mr Booth all the support they could.

At the close of the Meeting Mr Rowe gave a cordial invitation to those who so wished to inspect the whole school and see the various changes which have been made.

THE COUNCIL'S 46th ANNUAL REPORT.

The Council has pleasure in presenting its 46th Report in the 48th year of the Club's existence.

Linked as the Club is with the life of the school, it experienced unfeigned relief and pleasure when the doors of John Watson's were again opened to admit its pupils on 27th May, 1947. A message of cordial good wishes was sent to the Headmaster.

When the Scottish Command vacated the school, the building was in such a condition that it required all the energies of the school authorities for some months, and the Council did not therefore approach Mr Rowe with regard to the social side of the Club's activities. Now that the school is reconditioned, it is hoped that a Reunion of the former pupils will be held under the school roof during the Easter 1948 Recess.

The Council has been in touch with the Directors and the Headmaster regarding a permanent commemoration at the school of those Levites who laid down their lives in the Second World War. The governing body have warmly approved of the Council's suggestion that the one-time Directors' Room might be transformed into a Memorial Library, the cost being borne by the Club Members. The Council feels sure that the members will gladly subscribe the moneys necessary for the purpose.

It is gratifying to observe that the younger generation of Levites, as they leave the school, maintain their connection with it, by joining the Club. Five old boys and four old girls were admitted into the membership recently, and the roll on the Club books stands at 388.

The fact that the finances of the Club continue to be in a flourishing condition is due to the watchful care exercised by Mr Spence, the Treasurer, and his assistants. Their work is constant throughout the year, and if the Members wish to show them their appreciation (and who does not), they can do so by sending Mr Spence payment of their Club subscriptions without requiring to be reminded !

A deserved tribute was paid by the President in *The Levite* to Mr Douglas Murray on his relinquishing the post of Secretary, which he had adorned for nine years. Although he is now resident in Lenzie, there is no falling off in his whole-hearted interest in the Club. This is well exemplified by his excellent production of the recent Number of *The Levite*.

The Club is glad to be able to supplement the school bursaries by the presentation of two bursaries. This autumn the Council awarded the War Memorial Bursary of £7, 10s. to George K. Petrie (1945), and the Miss Murray Memorial Bursary of £7, 10s. to Elsie McKellar.

On the Vacation Day in July, 1947, the Club presented the following medals and prizes :—

Silver Medal to Dux of School	. . .	William Scott
Silver Medal to Dux Girl	. . .	Elsie McKellar
Rowe Memorial Bronze Medal for Religious Knowledge		Alan Reid
Langhorne Memorial Bronze Medal for Latin		Elsie McKellar
Ronaldson Prize for Writing	. . .	Mary Campbell
School Sports Championship Cup	. . .	William Scott

The Council has elected Mr Rowe an Honorary Member of the Club. It records its sincere appreciation of the kindly and helpful interest shown by him in its welfare.

By Order of the Council,

A. C. OGILVIE.

10th December, 1947.

THE JOHN WATSON CLUB.

THE CLUB CASH STATEMENTS (Abbreviated)
for Year Ending 30th November, 1947.

I.—CLUB CURRENT ACCOUNT.

Balances 30/11/46	...	...	£97	Cost of <i>Levite</i> —net	...	...	£38
Subs.—Boys	...	...	27	Bursaries	...	...	15
Subs.—Girls	...	...	23	Medals and Prizes	...	...	12
Donations	...	...	10	Posts, Stationery, etc.	...	...	14
Interests Received	...	...	15	Balances 30/11/47—			
				Current Account	...	...	39
				Savings Bank	...	...	52
				Cash	...	...	2
			<u>£172</u>				<u>£172</u>

Investments at cost total £424.

II.—F.P. DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Balances 30/11/46	...	...	£382	Balances 30/11/47	...	...	—
Interests Received	...	...	10	Savings Account	...	...	£105
War Memorial Donations	...	...	13	£300 3% Bonds	...	...	300
			<u>£405</u>				<u>£405</u>

Note.—Donations received for the proposed War Memorial were lodged in this Account pending the issue of a General Appeal.

III.—F.P. TRADITION FUND.

Balances 30/11/46	...	...	£68	School Treasurer's Fee	...	...	£1
Donations	...	...	31	Paid Foundationers' Fund	...	...	68
Tax Recovery	...	...	11	Balances in Bank 30/11/47	...	...	41
			<u>£110</u>				<u>£110</u>

Note.—The above Balance of £41 has since 30/11/47 been paid to the Foundationers' Fund.

IV.—F.P. FOUNDATIONERS' FUND.

Investments on Capital Account at 30/11/47 total £6866 as against the previous year's £6601. Legacies promised total approximately £5000.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Balances 30/11/46	...	...	£643	Balances Invested as at 30/11/47	£998
Revenue for Year	...	...	355		
			<u>£998</u>		<u>£998</u>

V.—F.P. CENTENARY RECREATION FUND.

Investments on Capital Account, £728.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Balance 30/11/46	...	...	£93	Mackenzie, Outfitter	...	...	£23
Revenue for Year	...	...	29	Balance Invested at 30/11/47	...	...	99
			<u>£122</u>				<u>£122</u>



Club Talk

Would the Levite who sent the Secretary a Postal Order for 5s. (issued at West Nile Street, Glasgow, on 7th January, 1948, inside a letter post marked Giffnock) please send him his or her name and address since that was not enclosed.

In appreciation of the interest which he has shown in the manifold affairs of the Club, to say nothing of the many kindnesses shown to individual members, Mr G. W. Rowe, the School's Headmaster, has been elected an Honorary Member of the Club.

Congratulations to the following Levites :—

Noné Petrie on her success in Civil Service Open Examinations. In the Chartered Accountancy Examination she took 4th place amongst nearly 3000 entrants and in the Clerical Officers' Examination she was placed 235 from 7000 other competitors. The entrants came from all over Great Britain, and Miss Petrie can well be proud of the results. She is now an established Civil Servant in the Planning Division of the Department of Health at St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh.

Stephen Miles (1935) on obtaining the degree of Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) at Harvard University, U.S.A. His Commonwealth Fellowship expired in September, 1947, and in the course of his studies he specialised in International Relations. He writes, "The Graduation Ceremony was held on the 5th of June, and I was fortunate enough to hear the American Secretary of State deliver his now famous speech which launched the 'Marshall Plan.'" To those of us who heard it, it seemed a somewhat casual and unimpressive utterance and it wasn't until some days later that its full international significance became clear. During the summer vacation I travelled some 12,000 miles round the country, visiting California and the far North West." Since returning to Scotland, Stephen has been assisting the Curator of Historical Records of Scotland at the Register House, Edinburgh, but on the 18th February he took up a post at St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh, as an assistant principal in the Scottish Home Department.

David Drummond (1939) and John D. O. Loudon (1939) who both graduated M.B.Ch.B. at Edinburgh University, last summer. The former is now at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Edinburgh, and the latter was at Nuneaton General Hospital until March when he took up an appointment in Edinburgh.

A recent visitor to Edinburgh was Dr. John Scott of Hornchurch, Essex. He sought out his "big chap" of old—Mr D. M. Thomson (1893)—and together they visited the school. Many were the yarns told and the memories revived. For the past three years Dr. Scott has been with a British Medical Unit in Germany.

Mention of Mr Thomson reminds us that the hope expressed in the last issue that his first publication, "The Corstorphine Heirloom," would only be the forerunner of others has been fulfilled, for Mr Thomson has now published a booklet entitled "A Guide to the Old Parish Church of Corstorphine." Levites resident far from Corstorphine can readily visit the Church from their armchairs, so clearly is it described and he or she can rest assured that they have missed nothing of interest. Afterwards one will inevitably be left wondering how such a comparatively small church has been endowed with such a wealth of history. We heartily recommend this booklet to all Levites.

The return of the pupils to school after last summer's holidays was darkened by the news of the death of one of the most popular boys, David Whitty. The sympathy of all Club members will be extended to those closest to him and we are privileged to be able to place on record the following appreciation of him written by Mr Rowe.

"David Patrick Whitty died during the night of 10th September. That morning he had fallen from his cycle, while riding along a farm track, and by a sad and strange misfortune had fractured his skull. His name is recorded here with much affection and respect.

Born in Dunfermline on 27th May, 1934, he was the elder son of the late Richard Hazelton Whitty of the Malayan Forest Service and Johore, and of Mrs Muriel Whitty. He was three weeks old when he sailed with his father and mother for the East, and it was only four years later, when he was returning with them for his father's home leave, that the latter very suddenly died from a heart attack on the voyage. In 1942 he entered John Watson's, where he at once established himself. His manner was quiet, his smile slow and rather mysterious: but when it came, his eyes sparkled and his whole being would kindle into merriment. His attractive nature cast a sort of spell around him, against which few were proof. He turned out to be a competent, if not brilliant, scholar, and a talented sportsman. His mother writes, 'David was always very fond of games, and the last two summers he played golf at Bridge of Allan Club. In the same local paper which printed the account of his accident, his name appeared as runner-up in the Boys' Championship Competition of the Bridge of Allan course, which he had played in a few days before his death.'

In David Whitty the school has lost one of its leading and most popular boys. Our hearts go out in sorrow and sympathy to those who loved him."

Other Levites—of an older generation—will be sorry to hear of the death, on 18th June, 1947, of Nurse Gillies, for 22 years Girls' Nurse at school. Her quiet highland voice soothed many a girl's mind and to the boys, who only came under her care on the Boys' Nurses' days off, she will be remembered for her kindly motherly manner. Who will forget her cheery, "Eachi-bah" (Good-night)—or so it sounded—as she went on her last round of the bedrooms.

Several Levites have gone overseas during the last year, with Africa claiming its full share. Mrs Foote (Dorothea Ogilvie) left last month with her husband and family to take up residence in South Africa. They plan, first of all, to stay in Cape Town before proceeding to Grahamstown where her husband has connections with the University. Others off to Africa are Deirdre and Hadley Fourie who now stay in Johannesburg, while Mrs Simpson (Maisie Fraser) has gone to Ado Ekiti in the Western Province of Nigeria where her husband has a teaching post.

The one Levite who has not gone to Africa is Graham Brodie (1941) who has taken up tea-planting as a career and is now at Malabar, South India.

Service duties have also taken Levites overseas. Oliver Cran (1940) is stationed in the Baden district of Germany and John Shannon (1942) further afield in Palestine. Sandy Clark (1926) who served with the Royal Armoured Corps (Lothian and Border Yeomanry) during the war has, after being demobilised, rejoined the service and is also serving abroad. His brother, Gilbert Clark (1933) has forsaken his career as a banker and retained his war-time commission in the Royal Air Force. At present he is posted conveniently near his own door step—Turnhouse Aerodrome.

News of the "ladies" is scarce (girls, please note) but we send our best wishes to Lyndal Miles on her forthcoming marriage in Edinburgh, on 21st June, to Mr John Luce. Mr Luce is a lecturer in Greek at Glasgow University, and is the son of the Chancellor of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. At present Lyndal holds a post as assistant editor with Messrs George Nelson the book publishers.

Elma Campbell, training for a nursing career, is at present at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

John Watson's has always been a "family" school and the Petrie family is a typical example, for apart from Noné Petrie, mentioned previously—her two sisters and brother all received education at John Watson's. Moira Petrie is with the Ministry of National Insurance in Edinburgh, while Rosemary Petrie is still at George Watson's Ladies' College, and sat her "lowers" last month,

The remaining member of the family George Petrie (1945) is now an apprentice draughtsman in the office of Sir Alex. Gibb & Partners. He is also studying at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh.

Still going strong—No! not “Johnny Walker,” but “Ossie” Forsyth (1919). Now nearly 43 years old he is still playing scrum half for Ilford Wanderers. Among the younger school H. L. Brodie (1935) is upholding John Watson’s reputation for producing good rugby players. He is a regular member of the Hillhead High School 1st XV. and occupies the stand-off half position. Until his departure for India his brother, Graham, was also in the team.

In the athletic world John Hart (1943) continues to hold attention. All Levites will wish to congratulate him on being one of the athletes nominated by the British Amateur Athletic Board as a possible choice for the team to represent Great Britain in the forthcoming Olympic Games in London. He has been asked by the Board to train hard and has given up a promising career on the rugby field owing to the inadvisability of trying to maintain, during the whole year round, the high degree of fitness which, both athletic and rugby activities would require. In 1947 he was rated the 4th best hurdler in Britain over 440 yards and the 7th best over 120 yards and he again had several notable successes in these events. In addition to being the Scottish Amateur Champion over these distances he is also the Scottish Universities Champion, although curiously enough he is not his own University’s Champion. Given the luck absent on two previous occasions, we are sure he will annex these titles during the coming summer.

Last summer he was awarded a “blue” and in the match between the Scottish and English Universities he won the 120 yards hurdles and was second in the 440 yards event. He took third place in the 440 yards hurdles race for the British Amateur team competing against the Combined Services.

A further honour given to him was his nomination as Captain and Team Manager of the Scottish team at the IXth World University Games held at Paris last August.

Recently he was appointed the Editor of the *Edinburgh University Athletic News*.

Levites who are readers of the *Scottish Daily Mail* will have noted and read the several articles which have appeared under Eric Montford’s pen. His direct presentation of the various topics, lightened by snatches of humour here and there, have made most interesting and informative reading.

Donald McLure (1941) is now studying for a B.A. degree with honours in History and Economics, at Brasenose College, Oxford.

Jack Scroggie (1936) has now decided to study for the Ministry (Church of Scotland) and is now at St. Mary’s College, St. Andrew’s University.

Tom Hart (1939) since his demobilisation from the Navy has joined Imperial Chemical Industries and is now resident on Tyneside.

In recent years quite a number of the younger Levites have answered the call of the sea as a career and found service within the Merchant Navy. We have news that John Moncrieff (1941) and Kenneth Clow (1941) are both with the Currie Line and hold their second mate's tickets. J. Campbell (1939) who sailed with the Blue Star Line in convoys to Malta during the war, has also had similar success. Tom Gregor (1942) is with the British Timber Co. and holds his third mate's ticket.

To the following Levites we tender our congratulations and best wishes :—

Marriages :

At Port Said, on 11th May, 1945, Irene Chrystal to Malcolm Anderson Macfarlane, Glasgow.

At Edinburgh, on 28th August, 1947, Nora Taubman to Ian D. E. Storey, B.Sc., Ph.D., Cranleigh, Surrey.

At Glasgow, in March, 1948, Edwin S. Elliot (1932) to Miss Joy Milligan, Whiting Bay.

Births :

At Glasgow, on 22nd August, 1946, to Mr and Mrs C. S. Levett (Dorothy Addison) a daughter.

At Edinburgh, on 4th June, 1947, to Mr and Mrs J. D. W. Spence, a daughter.

At Inverness, on 21st September, 1946, to Mr and Mrs A. Lunn (Kathleen Wylie) a son.

At Mbeya, Tanganyika, on 14th June, 1947, to Mr and Mrs R. G. Scott (1931) a daughter.

At London, on 1st July, 1947, to Mr and Mrs Nigel Buckmaster (Doreen Montgomery) a son.

At Aberfeldy, on 10th September, 1947, to Mr and Mrs G. Millar Rintoul (1931) a son.

At Edinburgh, on 23rd September, 1947, to Mr and Mrs R. A. Wilkie (Elsie Kincaid) a son.

At Edinburgh, on 16th October, 1947, to Mr and Mrs F. O'Neill (Margaret Brymer) a son.

At North Berwick, on 24th October, 1947, to Mr and Mrs Seaton (Connie Dow) a son.

At Edinburgh, in December, 1947, to Mr and Mrs Holmes (Thora McLeod) a son.

THE SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING, JULY, 1947.

The Annual Prize-giving and the accompanying Concert was held on Saturday the 26th of July, at Belford Road. The assembled company was honoured by the presence among them of the Lord and Lady Provost of Edinburgh, Sir John I. Falconer and Miss Diana Falconer, and by a happy thought, Mrs McEwen, of Marchmont.

The Concert programme given by the pupils was up to the high standard of former years, and was well arranged by Miss Forsyth so as to bring out the musical abilities of the children from the youngest to the oldest. Those who listened could not but be delighted by the sweetness of the "tinies" voices as they sang "The Cuckoo," and the boys, if relegated to a smaller share of the programme, showed to good effect in their lusty singing of "Brave Grenadiers, Rejoice," an old English song arranged by W. B. Moonie, whose singing lessons will be remembered well by those at John Watson's in the years after the 1914-1918 war.

The gifted pianoforte display given by Miss Elsie McKellar also commanded admiration and her rendering of Chopin's "Valse in C-sharp minor" and her two voluntaries with Miss Forsyth were much enjoyed by all. After the Lady Provost had presented the prizes, Sir John Falconer addressed the pupils. In the course of his address he expressed his delight at being present for two reasons. Firstly, because his term as Lord Provost was rapidly expiring and, secondly, and most appropriately, because he was a member of the W.S. Society. The children's close attention to him was in keeping with the wisdom of his words and advice to them.

At the close of the address there followed the two traditional items in the afternoon's proceedings—the presentation of Bibles to the Levites and the singing of the Dismissal Hymn. The words of the latter were thoughtfully printed on the programme but it was pleasing to see the number of Levites whose memories were carried back over the years, and who had no need of such aid.

And so, with the Benediction, given by the Minister of the Dean Church, the first part of the afternoon's proceedings ended.

On account of the inclement weather the gymnastic and dancing display, which was to have been held in the Park, was held indoors but with only the senior boys and girls participating. They, however, made light of the restricted space and their agility and neat execution of the various exercises was freely commented on.

The following is the list of the principal awards :—

**MEDALS AND PRIZES PRESENTED BY
THE CLUB.**

Silver Medal for Dux Boy and Dux of the School—William Scott.
Silver Medal for Dux Girl—Elsie McKellar.

Langhorne Memorial Medal for Latin—Elsie McKellar.
Rowe Memorial Medal for Religious Knowledge—Alan Reid.
Ronaldson Writing Prize—Mary Campbell.

Other Prizes :—

Class Primary 3. Niall Whitty, Graeme Brown.
Class Primary 4. Clifton Botcherby, Fay Herriot.
Class Primary 5. Leila Newlands, Eileen Simpson.
Class Secondary 1. Grant Carson, Murray Botcherby.
Class Secondary 2. Graham Rosie, David Whitty.
Class Secondary 3. William Scott, Elsie McKellar.

Art—Constance Birkenfield, Angus Dick.

Music : Piano—Elsie McKellar, Francie Ballantyne,
Barbara Anderson.

Singing—Duncan Stewart, Moira Quarry.

Needlework—Elsie McKellar, Elizabeth Burchell,
Margery Anderson.

Woodwork—Alexander Stevenson.

Handwork—Anthony Hands.

Nature Study—Fay Herriot.

Gardening—Rosemary Anderson, Alan Reid.

Domestic Science—Rosemary Anderson.

Gymnastics—William Scott, Laura Pringle.

Geography—Alexander Stevenson.

History—William Scott.

Mathematics—Elsie McKellar.

Science—William Scott.

French—Elsie McKellar.

French Phonetics—Elsie McKellar, Fergus Roy.

SPORT PRIZES.

John Watson Club Sports Championship Cup—William Scott.

Mar and Kellie House Championship Cup—Ravelston.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SPORTS, 1947.**List of Prizewinners of Open Events, etc.**

Event.	Class.	First.	Second.	Third.	Time/Distance
1 Hockey Dribbling	Girls	E. McKellar	C. Birkenfield	V. Hood	—
2 Cricket Ball	Boys	W. Scott	A. Reid	D. Stewart	67 yds., 2 ft.
3 880 Yards	Boys	W. Scott	A. Stevenson	N. McNair	—
4 880 Yards	Girls	F. Ballantyne	R. Anderson	E. McKellar	—
5 440 Yards	Boys	W. Scott	A. Stevenson	N. McNair	1 min., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.
6 440 Yards	Girls	R. Anderson	E. McKellar	L. Pringle	—
7 Long Jump	Boys	W. Scott	N. McNair	A. Ross	16 ft., 7 ins.
8 High Jump	Boys	W. Scott	A. Stevenson	D. Stewart	4 ft., 1 in.

OPEN SPORTS CHAMPIONS.

Boys	W. Scott	A. Stevenson
Girls	R. Anderson	E. McKellar

FINAL HOUSE PLACINGS.

(Including Sports, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey, Gymnastics, Gardening).

1 Ravelston	2 Dean	3 Belford
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School Notes

BOYS' PAGE.

The school broke up for the last time at Marchmont on Thursday, 10th April, 1947. More than seven years in that lovely place, and the long last snowy term there, were over. After our going, an oak tree was planted in the park to witness to our stay. The spring was to be late and harsh, with a long drought to follow, and, though the tree struck root, it did not outlive the season. Another now stands in its place.

The buildings and grounds in Edinburgh were undecorated and still occupied by workmen when, cheered by the Club's telegram of encouragement, we assembled there for the summer term. There was much eagerness to explore the school's old home, rich in tradition, but greatly changed within by temporary alterations and disfigured without by hutments. The Easter holidays had been prolonged to seven weeks, to make time for flitting and cleaning. Freedoms in Edinburgh were a novelty and were fruitfully used. The cricket field, resown nine months before, could not be used till the end of June, and meantime a sunny Saturday afternoon and evening were spent in making hay, while playing space was borrowed from St. George's and Fettes, to whom we record our thanks. The National Mental Survey and Transference Test quickly succeeded. The Drumsheugh Baths became again a place of pilgrimage, and some braved the havoc of war and sought refreshment in the Water of Leith. But the Kiddern was a seven years' dump of ashes, plaster-board, timber, cans and wire. Only the trees still stood defiant. The last survivor of the Marchmont rabbitry fell victim to a roaming dog, and three pullets made the pioneer's sacrifice before the Janitor's new poultry flock was established. The hutches were to remain empty until the early spring, when the Scouts installed a fine black buck. The cricket games and sports presented many difficulties, but these were mostly overcome. No immediate success attended the strenuous labour of planting greens and leeks on what had mainly been subsoil under Army huts. The crop was originally small, and smaller still after tribute levied by rabbits and hens. At the Prize-giving, which Mrs McEwen attended and at which Norman Macnair's William Ure Primrose Scholarship at Merchiston was announced, a deep impression was made by our guests of honour, the Lord and Lady Provost. The Scouts had raised funds for camp equipment, and in August a party spent a week under canvas at Marchmont.

By the beginning of the winter term the school was gay with new colour, but the painters were still at work, and the masons and

asphalters were to remain for many months. Two rugger games were played before Christmas against Fettes and a junior one against Donaldson's. It was encouraging to win the return against Fettes in February, but we lost then against Donaldson's. November 20th was a holiday for Princess Elizabeth's wedding. The Scouts organised a treasure hunt and built a bon-fire, which splendidly defied the rain. It was kindled after a lantern lecture by Mr Thornton Ripley on British Birds. At the Christmas Party, after some conjuring, first use was made of the Deccalian, which like the small H.M.V. radio is the gift of the T. J. Gordon fund. We await delivery of a sound film projector, promised from the same generous source. In the interval film strips are popular.

During the ten months under review, we have parted from much that was familiar and dear, and have come back to resume in our turn the legacy of history and tradition that comes to us from the school's astonishing past. Of the staff Captain House and Mr de Lingen have left. We wish them good luck and much happiness, and welcome Mr Wilfred Bell and Mr McCracken in their place. Gradually our life is shaping itself to its new mould, and perhaps one day even the grounds will regain their ancient grace.

G. W. ROWE.

GIRLS' PAGE.

As an impending change draws nearer there is either regret for that which must be laid aside or eager anticipation of the future. On the whole it was thoughts of the latter that filled the minds of the girls during our last uncertain months at Marchmont. It was not lack of appreciation of Marchmont that prompted such feelings: even yet tales of the happy years spent there are on the lips of the girls and a classroom may still be referred to as the White Drawing Room. Rather was it a desire to know our rightful home and in spite of grime and broken locks and Nissen huts we felt in May that we had "come home." For the 1947 Levites it was an especial joy to spend the final term of their school life in the real John Watson's, for of those who returned, only one pupil, Frances Ballantyne, had been at the school prior to its evacuation.

Since May we have been establishing ourselves, perhaps not always according to pre-war customs, but in a fashion that will no doubt mean "John Watson's" to a generation of Levites yet to come. Upstairs the Grey Dormitory is as of old, and it appears that the High Dormitory is to be the prerogative of the older girls whilst the Wee Folk are accommodated in the small room leading to the fire escape. Downstairs the former Common Room is now the Junior Prep. Room, whilst the end classroom at the front is the Common Room,

There have been many visitors since our return. All have been welcome, and of especial interest to the girls was the visit of Miss Gellatly who was already well known by her photograph on the Common Room walls.

During our last term at Marchmont the Guide Company was revived under the able leadership of Miss McEwen, and we felt that fortune favoured us when, on our return, we discovered that Miss Bayliff, whom we welcomed in place of Mrs Britton, was able and willing to continue the work. Recently a Brownie Pack has been formed with the willing assistance of Miss Wall and all girls of a suitable age have decided to join.

Piano lessons are very popular and there are few free moments in the day when no sounds of practising may be heard. We were very pleased when the eight girls who entered for examinations in March were all successful, two of them reaching distinction standard.

We have been endeavouring to renew some of our pre-war contacts with other schools and have already played hockey matches with St. George's and George Watson's. Although success did not crown our efforts there is great keenness to improve the standard of play and enthusiasts have been known to practise in the early hours before breakfast. A match played in February against an all-staff team resulted in a victory for the staff.

Parties have marked the same celebrations as in previous years, and this time the Hallowe'en party was organised entirely by the eight senior girls. In addition to the usual games and dances two plays were given, one short one by the senior girls and another, an original one, by the juniors. Some of the older girls contributed to the Burns' Night celebrations by the performance of the Sword Dance.

Not least among the attractions of our return to Edinburgh have been the introduction of regular visits to the swimming baths and the joy of using two well-equipped domestic science rooms. And for those who remember, perhaps with regret, the long rambles among the Berwickshire hills, there is the recompense of being able to explore not just once, but often, the historic sites of "Auld Reekie."

Miss TRON.

THE JOHN WATSON CLUB. NEW MEMBERS.

- 1947 Ross, Alexander, 21 Dudley Crescent, Edinburgh 6.
- 1947 Reid, Alan G., 5 Transy Place, Dunfermline.
- 1947 Stiff, Gerald, "Lochinvar," The Rise, Elstree, Herts.
- 1947 Stewart, Duncan M. C., 264 King's Park Avenue, Glasgow, S.4.

- 1947 Scott, Wm. J., 82 Parkhead Loan, Edinburgh 11.
 Campbell, Miss Mary C. M., 15 Learmonth Gardens, Edinburgh 4.
 Kay, Miss Ella, Cragowlet, Cove, Dumbartonshire (*Rejoined*).
 McKellar, Miss Elsie, 5 Bryce Avenue, Edinburgh 1.
 Pringle, Miss Laura, Bothwell Banks, Haddington.
 Quarry, Miss Moira, High Street, Greenlaw.

CHANGES OF MEMBERS' ADDRESSES.

- 1934 Binnie, A. S., 64 Abbeystead Street, Wavertree, Liverpool.
 1918 Birkett, E. Ros, C.A., 31 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh.
 1941 Brodie, G. A., Achoor Estate, Vayitri P.O., Malabar, South India.
 1939 Drummond, Dr. D. C., Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh.
 1944 Fourie, D. H., c/o Hanker, 39 First Avenue, Melville Extension, Johannesburg, South Africa.
 1939 Gunn, J. S., c/o Dept. of Agriculture, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika Territory, British East Africa.
 1925 Kinghorn, A. M., 45 Hamilton Drive, Portobello, Edinburgh.
 1915 Mulligan, E. J. B., c/o Barclay's Bank Ltd., Fitzalan Square, Sheffield.
 1946 Nesbit, J. M. F., 44 Kenilworth Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 1939 Richards, c/o Paul, 80 Montgomery Street, Edinburgh.
 1898 Scott, Dr. J., c/o Barclay's Bank Ltd., Hornchurch, Essex.
 Foote, Mrs (D. Ogilvie), 24 Montreux Flats, Queen Victoria Street, Capetown, South Africa.
 Fourie, Miss D. V. I., c/o Hanker, 39 First Avenue, Melville Extension, Johannesburg, South Africa.
 Gellatly, Miss W. L., c/o 26 Saxe-Coburg Place, Edinburgh.
 Holmes, Mrs (Thora McLeod), 45 Learmonth Court, Edinburgh.
 Levett, Mrs (Dorothy Addison), 42 Middleton Way, Fen-drayton, Cambridgeshire.
 Macrae, Mrs (Jenny Wilson), 10 Carlton Road, Harpenden, Herts.
 Macfarlane, Mrs (Irene Chrystal), 132 University Avenue, Hillhead, Glasgow.
 Rhind, Miss J., M.A., 4 Leslie Place, Edinburgh.
 Senderacki, Mrs (C. White), 25 Dundonald Road, Kirklee, Glasgow.
 Simpson, Mrs (M. Fraser), District Office, Ado Ekiti, Western Province, Nigeria.

ADDRESSES REQUIRED.

- Cumming, Miss Cynthia—Edinburgh.
Chrystal, Miss Irene—Edinburgh.
Gregor, Miss Molly—Edinburgh.
Grigor, Miss Mona—Edinburgh.
Hoby, Miss Erica—London.
Mackenzie, Miss M.—Liverpool.
Martin, Miss Audrey—Lanark.
Mackie, Miss Cecilia—
1911 Boswell, K. C.—London.
1934 Brander, G.—Glasgow.
1931 Duffes, W. G.—Perth.
1933 Foggo, K. M. G.—Biggar.
Fortune, W.—Duns.
1893 Grant, H. K.—Llandudno.
1900 Graham, T.—Upton.
1932 Grant, J. B.—Paignton.
1938 Grant, A.—Paignton.
1939 Grant, I.—Paignton.
1921 Jackson, D. T.—Dollar.
1929 Jackson, J. R.—London.
1939 Moodie, A.—
1932 Marr, J.—Gloucester.
1939 Mann, J.—Edinburgh.
1900 McEwen, H. C.—London.
1933 Pitcairn, E.—Edinburgh.
1885 Riddell, H. S.—Natal.
1882 Sinclair, Dr.—Sussex.

